

INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKING AND SOCIAL COGNITION ON RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTHS IN ONITSHA METROPOLIS, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA.

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ABSTRACT: *The study examined influence of social media and social cognition on risky sexual behaviour among youths in Onitsha Metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria using 200 participants of 120 (75.0%) females, 80 (25%) males, mean age 25.36 years, and SD 7.03. Risky Sex Scale (RSS), Adolescent Social Cognition Questionnaire and Social Networking Usage Questionnaire were the instruments. Correlational design and Multiple Linear Regressions were employed. Findings showed social media usage and social cognition predicted the risky sexual behaviours of youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria. It was recommended for behaviour moulders (like parents, guardians, priests, and significant others) to be functionally effective in moral and value development of the youth.*

KEYWORDS: Social-Media, Networking, Social-Cognition, Risky-Sex, Youths

INTRODUCTION

Risky sexual behaviour among young people is a major public health concern all over the world. In a report of United Nations cited in Odoemelam and Adibe (2012), nearly 800,000 young women aged 15-19 years get pregnant annually, with most of them happening unintentionally. A great deal of research attention has been paid world over towards understanding what puts young people at risk for these outcomes, given the enormous social, economic, and public health consequences (Abdullahi & Abdulqaudri, 2018). It becomes very necessary to have an in-depth understanding of and do more to address risky sexual behaviours among young people (Arua, 2011; Magnus & Gbakeji, 2009).

One route towards addressing this issue is to identify the contributing factors that predispose young people to those risks and identify preventive measures that can be used to ameliorate them (Adesemoye, 2010; Agbodo, 2017). Social media networking and its attendant social cognition seem to be the predisposing factors to youths' risky sexual behaviours. Social media (SM) is defined as "a wide range of internet-based communications, tools, and aids offering easy, cost-effective access to large numbers of people across geographic distances" (Calhoun & Friel, 2013).

Over the past decades, studies have identified social media and the cognition of the society as having the potential to serve both

functional and dysfunctional roles (Owan & Robert, 2019; Arop, Agunwa, & Owan, 2019). Meanwhile, the media landscape is evolving at a startling pace, and a greater diversity of content, new types of media, and new social media platforms have been created which can be used to deliver messages across remote distances. And is shaping social cognition of the youths and making them engaging in several risk sexual behaviours. This makes it imperative that the researcher begins to systematically study social networking platforms as well as social cognition to determine their influence on youths' risky sexual behaviours.

The youth form a distinct population of social network subscribers since they have a specific desire for exploring new exciting information through communication technologies. With the flexibility and versatility of social media serving as a channel of direct communication among youth, they are able to extensively share information at unexpectedly high rates (Lilley, Grodzinsky, & Gumbus, 2012). Research conducted over the years suggests that sexual activity among young people can be greatly accelerated by viewing sexual content on television, in movies and magazines, and from music Williams, 2016). Extant research, further adds that in recent years, social media like the internet and geosocial networking (GSN) applications have been cited as new avenues for meeting sexual partners (Shapiro et al., 2017).

Social media networks tend to influence the sexual behaviour of its users by exposing them regularly to sexually explicit materials as well as providing information about specific sexual behaviours (Akram & Kumar, 2018). These new social platforms show current ways through, which people communicate with one another positively or negatively. These new media applications can be accessed by use of smartphone devices and gadgets and include “WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, blogs, YouTube, Snapchat, and Tinder” (Lindsay, 2011).

The concept of social cognition can be defined as a domain of research studying human thinking and of its relationships with social behavior. More specifically, social cognition refers to the study of the processes by which people make sense of themselves and of others as well as of their social environment, and the implications of this thinking for social behavior (Bless, 2014; Fiske & Taylor, 2017). Thinking should be interpreted here in a broad meaning: the cognitive processes (conscious and unconscious) that underlie the understanding of the social environment. Social cognition is thus interested in what information do people attend in specific situations, how they process, encode, and integrate this information with the stored knowledge, and in turn how these processes influence people's social perception, judgment, and behavior.

Statement of the problem

Approximately, 11.8 million adolescents and youths are living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Out of all the new HIV/AIDS infections, 60 percent occur among the adolescents with more girls being infected than boys (Youth Net, 2010). Cases of early pregnancies have also increased from 3 percent at the age of 15 years, to 45 percent at the age of 19 years. Only 20.4 percent of the sexually active adolescent female aged 15-19 years reported using modern contraceptives (Pak., 2010). The majority of abortion seekers are young unmarried girls Kiragu (2010) while 41 percent of school pregnancies are terminated through abortion (Kiragu, 2010). Trends of HIV/AIDS are extremely high among youth;

particularly girls aged 15-19 years and young women 20-24 years (Pak, 2010).

Increasing early childbearing is exposing young mothers to risks of maternal morbidity and mortality. Adolescent mothers are more likely to drop out of schools (Karl, 2015). Despite the consequences of engagement in early and unprotected sex, the rate of contraceptive use among the adolescents is low though its prevalence rate has increased overtime (Max, 2010). The works of Bavakutty and Salih (2019) and Becker (2015) linked social networking media use and social cognition with the initiation of various sexual activities and spread of sexual messages. In line with this direction, Fahmi (2015) observes that researchers may find that these media and social cognition are also linked to developing sexual attitudes and behaviours that could result in sexual risk-taking with damning health consequences. This study was designed to investigate this issue by examining the influence of social media networking and social cognition on risky sexual behaviours among the youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to find out the influence of social media networking and social cognition of risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria. Specifically, this study wants:

1. To ascertain if social media networking will significantly influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria.
2. To find out if social cognition will significantly influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis.
3. To determine if social media networking and social cognition will jointly influence risky sexual behaviour among youths in Onitsha metropolis.

Research Questions

1. How will social media networking influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria?

2. To what extent will social cognition significantly influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis?
3. To what degree will social media networking and social cognition jointly influence risky sexual behaviour among youths in Onitsha metropolis?

Significant of the Study

1. To the existing research, this study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the area of risky sexual behaviours, it will bring to focus the various causes of risky sexual behaviour and how it can be controlled among the youths.
2. To the policy makers; this study will assist the policy makers and the government on how to make various policies that will help to educate the youths on risky sexual behaviours and the health implications.
3. To the ministry of health; this study will assist the ministry of health on how to curb the issue of risky sexual behaviours among the youths and how to control the use of social network as such can predispose the youths to risky sexual behaviours.
4. To the society; ignorance of risky sexual behaviour issues is a bane in our society that has done a lot of damage as a result of misguided information, and groundless suspicion from the various social network and the perception of the environment. With the aid of this study, it is hoped that members of the society will understand that there are different reasons for risky sexual behaviours, with social media and social cognition probably contributing more than originally thoughts.

Operational Definition of Terms

Social media networking: This refers to special kinds of content created and delivered through the internet and specialized websites as measured

with social network usage questionnaire by Savita and Liyaqat (2015).

Social cognition: This refers to the way people process, store and apply information about other people and social situation as measured with adolescent social cognition questionnaire by Wells, Stopa & Clark (1993).

Risky sexual behaviour: This entails the various activities an individual engages in that sexually endangers the life of such individual as measured with risky sex scale by O'Hare (2001).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Review

On social media

Determinism Theory by Baran (2004): The Technological Determinism Theory maintains that "at some quarters, machines and their aftermath development would drive economic, political, historical and socio-cultural transformation cum change" (Baran, 2004). One of the assumptions of this theory states that change in communication technology inevitably would produce profound developmental changes in both culture and social media of a system (Mackenzie, 2018). This, according to Baran (2004) is one perspective of the theory. Another assumption of the theory suggests that technology by nature is neutral. The import is that its significance is embedded in the way people apply or use it.

The implication of this is that technology's influence is ultimately determined by how much power it receives from the audience or people and culture that accept it. Strict adherence to technological determinism does not believe that the influence of technology differs based on how much technology is or can be used. Instead of considering technology as part of a larger spectrum of human activity, technological determinism sees technology as the basis for all human activity. The implication of this theory to this study is that many young people do not really have a clear-cut objective of visiting the internet but they believed a friend is hooked on the internet, it becomes a misnomer for them to be online. As youths surf the net, they join some social networks and consequently participate in watching or reading about their heroes or heronries who are mostly alien to their culture.

Uses and Gratification Theory by LaRose (2005): Uses and Gratifications Theory (UGT) is an approach to understanding why and how people actively seek out specific media to satisfy specific needs. The driving question of Uses Gratification Theory is: Why do people use media and what do they use them for? Uses and Gratification Theory discusses how users deliberately choose media that will satisfy given needs and allow one to enhance knowledge, relaxation, social interactions/companionship, diversion, or escape. It assumes that audience members are not passive consumers of media. Rather, the audience has power over their media consumption and assumes an active role in interpreting and integrating media into their own lives. Unlike other theoretical perspectives, Uses Gratification Theory holds that audiences are responsible for choosing media to meet their desires and needs to achieve gratification. This theory would then imply that the media compete against other information sources for viewers' gratification.

On social cognition

Social Cognitive Theory by Bandura (1986): Social cognitive theory provides a useful framework for understanding how determinants of behavior operate together to explain actions (Bandura, 1986, 1997). According to the theory, self-efficacy, one's beliefs in capabilities to meet specific performance attainments, is part of the self-regulatory aspect of behavior. Behavior is dependent on one's efficacy beliefs, which determine which behaviors one chooses to perform, the degree of perseverance, and the quality of the performance (Bandura, 1986, 1997). The role of self-efficacy in the initiation and maintenance of health behaviors such as smoking, exercise, weight control, and diabetes, epilepsy, and arthritis self-management appears to have been firmly established (Gecht, Connell, Sinacore, & Prohaska, 2016). In particular, a strong sense of efficacy has been shown to be an important variable in the prediction of condom use among college students (Basen-Engquist, 2014).

On Risky Sexual Behaviour

Theory of Planned Behaviour by Albarracín & Johnson (2001): The Theory Planned

Bbehaviour theorizes that attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control are constructs related to intended condom use (Albarracín, Johnson, Fishbein, & Muellerleile, 2001). The attitude towards the specific behaviour condom use is a function of the beliefs a person has about the consequences of condom use and can either be favourable or unfavourable (Sutton, McVey, & Glanz, 1999). Subjective norm refers to the perception of approval or disapproval from significant others regarding the use of condoms. This perception of expectations of significant others is pulled together with the individual's motivation to comply with those expectations. Furthermore, the Theory of Planned Behaviour postulates that the decision to engage in a particular behaviour is the result of a rational process that is goal oriented; consequences are evaluated and a decision to act or not act is made.

This decision is generally referred to as behavioural intention in terms of motivation of an individual to exert effort to perform a particular behaviour. The Theory of Planned Behaviour, moreover, declares that the intention to engage in a particular behaviour is a strong and proximal determinant of behaviour, thus the intended condom use is a good predictor of the actual use of condoms (Armitage & Connor, 2011). The implication of this theory to this study is that it is expected that the more positive the attitude towards condoms (sex-related attitude), the response-efficacy (health-related attitude and coping appraisal), and the subjective norm, and the greater the perceived behavioral control and the self-efficacy (coping appraisal) concerning using condoms, the stronger the individual's intention to use condoms while having sexual intercourse (Ajzen, 2011).

Empirical Review

Social media among the Youths

Kocak and Oyman (2012) in their study entitled "Social Media Usage Behaviors of Individuals: An Application in Eskisehir" shows that the perception of the individuals about the social media platforms is limited to the social network sites. This research shows that gender is not a prominent variable, whereas the age is decisive as regards the frequency of the use of the social media platforms. It is also shown in this

context that the age-group that spends the longest time for the social media platform is the one between 15-24 years. This group is followed by the 25-34 years age group. Significant differences with these age groups may be observed in the individuals having 45 and more years of age. Education level does not have an impact on the frequency of the social media use in general.

Mustafa, Hasan, Swidan, Arafat and Adnan (2013) conducted a study on the intensity of (Social Networking Sites) SNSs use among the students of Jordanian universities. Five research questions guided the study. Four universities were involved in this study, while 727 undergraduate students responded to a questionnaire that measured their intensity of SNSs use. Questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. To answer research questions, the researchers used descriptive statistics, ANOVA, Chi-Square, and T-test. The study revealed significant differences among students' uses of SNSs. The variables consisted of university, faculty, gender, and academic level of the students.

The study is related to the present study in that both have frequency of use of social network sites as their variable of interest. However, the study is different from the present study in content and geographical scope and respondents used. While the study focused on the intensity of Social Networking Sites use among the students of Jordanian universities, the present study has its interest on influence of social network site addiction on secondary school students' risky sexual behaviour. Similarly, the design of the two studies differed in that Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used in the study but ex post facto will be used in the present study.

Eke, Omekwu and Odo (2014) conducted a study to investigate the use of social networking sites among the undergraduate students of university of Nigeria Nsukka. The purpose of the study are to ascertain the various categories of social networking sites used by UNN Undergraduates, to examine the extent of usage of social networking sites by UNN Undergraduates, to examine their (UNN Undergraduates) purposes of using social networking sites, to determine the benefits of

using social networking sites and to identify the dangers associated with social networking and to proffer strategies to ameliorate such dangers. The study adopted the descriptive survey research design which was employed to derive responses from a sample size of 150 undergraduate students of university of Nigeria Nsukka who were selected via random sampling techniques. Data were collected from this population using questionnaire. The 150 respondents completed and returned the questionnaire correctly representing 100% response State. Means (\bar{x}) were used to analyze the six research questions that guided the study. The result of the study revealed that mostly all the students were using the social networking sites in interaction with friends, connecting to their class mates for online study and for discussing serious national issues and watching movies etc.

Risky sexual behaviour among youths

A study highlighted that adolescent, who abuse substances, are more likely to engage in Risky Sexual Behaviour and stand a higher chance of contracting HIV/AIDS (WHO/UNAIDS, 2005). Another study by Wafula and Kaseje (2017), in Kenya, reported that 22% of adolescents, who had ever had sex, had their first sexual encounter between ages 14 and 16. Also, while a greater proportion of males (69%) and females (72%) used contraceptives during their first sexual encounter, contraceptive use had dropped to 52%. Factors accounting for these were familiarity among adolescents and young adults who had one sexual partner. Other factors such as alcohol consumption and substance abuse were cited as contributors (Wafula & Kaseje, 2017).

In a study conducted by Exavery and colleagues (2011), in Tanzania, found that the prevalence of condom use at the last sexual intercourse among the sexually active respondents between the ages of 10-19 years ranged from 14% to 56%, with an overall prevalence of 39% (Exavery et al., 2011). Also, results from the 2003 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey revealed that 89.9% of women aged 15 years and above in the rural area and 84.8% of women aged 15 years and above in the urban area reported not using a condom during

last sexual intercourse (Baiden, Rajulton, Baiden, & Rajulton, 2012). Furthermore, in a study conducted in Ghana among sexually active youth (aged 15–19 years), only 28% reported using condoms the first time they had sex and 30% reported using condoms during their last sexual intercourse (NSS et al., 2014).

Adeoye, Ola and Aliu (2012) examined prevalence of premarital sexual activities among the youth in a selected private University in Nigeria. A sample of 300 students comprised of 176 males and 124 females were randomly selected to participate in the study. The mean age and standard deviation were 21.7 ± 6.3 years. The ex-post-facto research design was employed. A 35 item; youth premarital sexual activities (YPSA) developed by the researchers was used to generate data for the study. All the hypotheses data were tested at 0.05 levels of significance. Data was analyzed with the use of Independent t-test and Multiple Regression and Analysis of Variance.

The results indicated that there is a significant difference between the sex, age and family background and premarital sexual activities. Also, family background contributed most to premarital activities followed by age grouping as and finally by gender. Lastly, there is no significant difference between the age grouping and premarital sexual activities. It was concluded that gender and family background play a vital role in engagement of premarital sexual activities by young people, whereas age that is supposed to have impact on the dependent variable proved wrong the intention of the researchers. Thus, since age and gender are strong determinants to premarital sexual activities, parents should monitor their children closely especially during the time of their youth.

Ekpenyong and Ekpenyong (2016) carried out to determine the factors influencing premarital sexual practice among students of Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. Participants in the study were students of the Niger Delta University, both males and females. To collect the data for this study, the survey research design was adopted, 230 structured questionnaires were distributed to 230 respondents, out of which 216 questionnaires were collected. The analysis was done using the

simple percentages/tables and hypotheses were tested using the chi-square statistical method. Finding reveals that premarital sexual practice among students in the university is high. The consequences of premarital sex on the students were examined and among the consequences include; unwanted pregnancy, poor academic performance, regret, health, effect, depression etc. Based on the findings, the study made recommends that the university should revise its policies on days of room visitation that allow make students to visit female students and conic up with rules governing sexual relationship on campus.

Research Hypotheses

1. Social media networking will not significantly influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria
2. Social cognition will not significantly influence risky sexual behaviour among the youths in Onitsha metropolis.
3. Social media networking and social cognition will jointly influence risky sexual behaviour among youths in Onitsha metropolis.

METHOD

Participants: The participants that will be used for this research are youths in youths in Onitsha metropolis, Anambra State, Nigeria. The participants will be selected using cluster and convenient sampling method. According to John (2006), Cluster sampling is a probability sampling technique where researchers divide the population into multiple groups (clusters) for research. The cluster that will be used in this study are clusters of secondary school students, undergraduates, and graduate youths. Adel (2007), defined convenience sampling method as a non-probability sampling method in which a researcher selects participants for research based on how accessible the participants are to the researcher. The participants will comprise of 120 (75.0%) females and 80 (25%) males whose ages ranged from 15-30 years, with a mean age of 30.36 years and a standard deviation of 7.03 years.

Instruments: Three instruments will be utilized which are: Social Networking Usage

Questionnaire by Savita and Liyaqat (2015) to measure social media, and Adolescent Social Cognition Questionnaire by Wells, Stopa and Clark (1993) to measure social cognition, Risky Sex Scale by O'Hare (2001) to measured risky sexual behaviours.

Social Networking Usage Questionnaire by Savita and Liyaqat (2015) has a 19-item scale designed to measure the frequency of usage of social media, the various items of the scale are given in statement form; eg; I use social media sites to become more sociable. The scale is on 5-point likert response format ranging from never (1) to always (5). The author reported the reliability coefficient of .96 and a 2-hour test-retest of .96. as well as a content validity of .78. In Nigeria, Agu (2017) reported a Cronbach Alpha of .82. From the pilot test in the study, a Cronbach alpha of .93 was obtained.

Adolescent Social Cognition Questionnaire by Wells, Stopa and Clark (1993) is a 22-item self-report scale measuring the frequency and belief of negative automatic thoughts in social situations, adapted from the Social Cognitions Questionnaire (SCQ; Wells, Stopa, & Clark, 1993). It includes items such as "I will be unable to speak" and "People will stare at me". The SCQ has good internal consistency in an adolescent sample (Hodson et al., 2008). It has been used to measure treatment outcomes of adults with SAD (e.g., Stott et al., 2013). Mean scores were obtained for the frequency of negative automatic thoughts, ranging from 1 (never) to 5 (always). The internal consistency for the frequency subscale of this sample was $\alpha = 0.96$. Also, the content validity for this scale is .85. The dependability coefficient of the scale in this research is 0.86. as reported by the author. In a study in Nigeria, chukwudi (2001), the scale reported a cronbach alpha of 0.78.the researcher conducted a pilot study and obtained a Cronbach Alpha of .98.

Risky Sex Scale (RSS) by O'Hare (2001) is a brief screening tool developed for, and

validated among, college students. It was designed to assess three domains of young adults' participation in sexual risk behaviour: (a) expectancies for sexual arousal and performance following alcohol use; (b) sexual risk behaviour while intoxicated; and (c) perceptions of gender-related risk for sexual violence following alcohol use. The Risky Sex Scale overcomes some of the limitations of existing brief screening tools by using a 5-point Likert-type rating format and by establishing relations between alcohol use and risk behaviors in the wording of each item. The content validity of the scale was found to be 0.86 (O'Hare, 2001). The observed internal consistency for this scale was found to be 0.75. A study by (Okon, 2004), obtained a Cronbach's alpha of .83. Another study in Nigeria (Onugwu, 2014) obtained a Cronbach's alpha of .70. the researcher conducted a pilot study and obtained a Cronbach alpha of .89.

Procedure: Before the process of data collection, informed consent was obtained from the participants who volunteered to participate in the study. Assurance of confidentiality was established and thereafter the research instruments were administered to the participants in their respective offices. A total of 220 copies of the questionnaire will be distributed to those that met the inclusion criteria for the study. All the properly filled copies of the questionnaire will be used for data analyses.

Design/Statistics: A predictive design will be adopted for the study. According to raj (2010), a predictive design reveals the predictive relationship that exists between two variables. On the statistical tools, multiple linear regression will used to test the hypothesis. This is because the researcher is interested in finding out the extent to which social media and social cognition significantly predict risky sexual behaviours. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 will be used to manage all the statistical analyses.

RESULT

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics for Social Networking, Social Cognition and Risky Sex

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis			
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Statistic	Std. Error	Statistic	Std. Error
GENDER	101	1.00	2.00	1.7327	.04426	.44477	-1.067	.240	-.878	.476
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	101	3.00	5.00	3.7426	.06844	.68780	.384	.240	-.845	.476
MARITAL STATUS	101	6.00	9.00	6.8614	.07040	.70753	.723	.240	.980	.476
SOCIAL NETWORKING	101	53.00	112.00	85.0198	1.09562	11.01089	-.515	.240	.532	.476
SOCIAL COGNITION	101	22.00	105.00	51.7723	2.12407	21.34661	.613	.240	-.267	.476
RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR	101	15.00	57.00	33.7525	1.07256	10.77906	.116	.240	-.605	.476
Valid N (listwise)	101									

Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

The skewness was negative for social networking (-.515) indicating negative use of it (social networking). Nonetheless, there was positive skewness (.613) for social cognition, indicating complete awareness of the use of social networking. The standard deviations for social networking (11.01089) and social cognition (21.34661) vary so much indicating inconsistency in the performance of the participants. Risky sexual behaviour was positive (.116) indicating active involvement in the behaviour, while the standard deviation (10.77906) shows appreciable variation in indulging in risky sexual behaviour.

The kurtosis was positive for social networking (.532) away from the kurtosis 3-point benchmark, indicating non-outlier (consistent) social networking. However, the negative social cognition (-.267) indicated wide negative social self-knowledge. Furthermore, risky sexual behaviour had negative kurtosis (-.605) indicating compounded norm of the behaviour (risky sexual behaviour) among the participants. The standard errors of .240 for skewness and .476 for kurtosis were all positive, which gave hints that the samples had positive generalization possibility.

Table 2: Correlations for Social Networking, Social Cognition and Risky Sex

	RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR	SOCIAL NETWORKING	SOCIAL COGNITION
Pearson Correlation	RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR	1.000	
	SOCIAL NETWORKING	-.237*	1.000
	SOCIAL COGNITION	.244*	-.020
			1.000

* significant @ $P \leq .05$ for $N = 101$; Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Table 2 above showed that social networking ($P \leq .05$, $r = -.237$, $N = 101$) significantly but negatively correlated with risky sexual behaviour. This indicated that the youths' involvement in social networking did not relate with their involvement in risky sexual behaviour.

Social cognition ($P \leq .05$, $r = .244$, $N = 101$) significantly and positively correlated with risky sexual behaviour. It indicated that the youths had adequate knowledge of their social environment as well as what risky sexual behaviour entails.

Table 3: Regression Results for Social Networking and Social Cognition on Youths' Risky Sexual Behaviour

DV – Youths' Risky Sexual Behaviour	β_1	β_2
Social Networking	-.237* (.096)	-.232* (.093)
Social Cognition		.239* (.048)
R Square	.056*	.113*
Adjusted R Square	.047*	.095*
Δ R Square	.056*	.057*
Δ F	5.899*	6.308*
Std Error	(10.52435*)	(10.25307*)
Df	1; 99	1; 98
N		101
Durbin-Watson	1.356	

* significant @ $P \leq .05$ for $N = 101$; Standard errors are reported in parentheses; Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Hypothesis One: It states that “social networking will not significantly predict risky sexual behaviour of youths”. Table 3 showed that social networking significantly but negatively predicted risky sexual behaviour ($P \leq .05$, $\beta = -.237$, $N = 101$, $df = 1;99$), indicating that risky sexual behaviour was not an attribute of social networking. Again, social networking significantly but negatively predicted social cognition ($P \leq .05$, $\beta = -.232$, $N = 101$, $df = 1;98$), indicating that social networking did not concomitantly lead to social cognition (knowledge).

Hypothesis Two: It states that “social cognition will not significantly predict risky sexual behaviour”. The findings show that social cognition significantly and positively predicted risky sexual behaviour ($P \leq .05$, $\beta = .239$, $N = 101$, $df = 1;98$), indicating that youths' social cognition (knowledge) was significant in their

risky sexual behaviour. Social networking and social cognition contributed 5.6% and 11% respectively to youths' risky sexual behaviour. The Δ R Square Change (from 5.6% to 5.7%) indicated significant increased contribution by social cognition. The Standard (Std) Errors (10.52435 and 10.25307) being significant showed that the performance of the participants sampled could be generalized to the population of study. The Durbin-Watson (1.356) showed autocorrelation not adverse to the analyzed data. The Durbin-Watson produces a test number range from 0 to 4. Values closer to 0 indicate a greater degree of positive correlation, values closer to 4 indicate a greater degree of negative autocorrelation, while values closer to 2 suggest less autocorrelation. An autocorrelation of +1 represents a perfect positive correlation, while autocorrelation of -1 represents a perfect negative correlation.

Table 4: Residuals Statistics

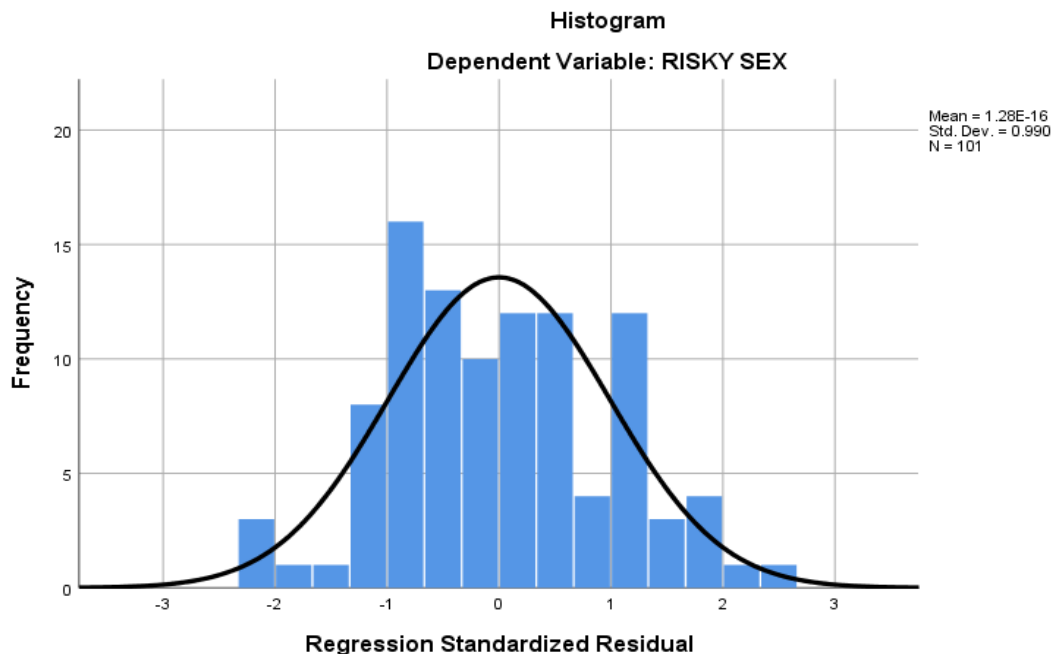
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	24.1462	42.8661	33.7525	3.62839	101
Residual	-22.44050	25.41535	.00000	10.15002	101
Std. Predicted Value	-2.648	2.512	.000	1.000	101
Std. Residual	-2.189	2.479	.000	.990	101

Dependent Variable: RISKY SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR; Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Table 4 showed the residual mean being .00000 indicating that the data were normally distributed. Outrageous data that could have adversely affected the result were absent. A standardized

residual with an absolute value greater than 3 is considered to be an outlier, which could have adversely affected the data.

Figure 1: Histogram for Social Networking and Social Cognition on Youths’ Risky Sexual Behaviour

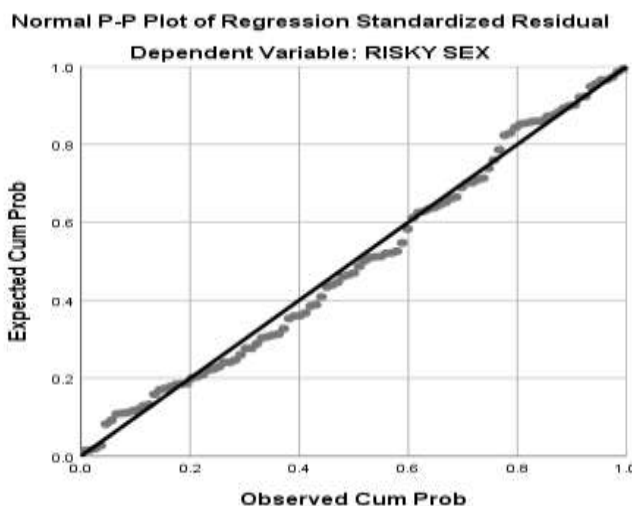


Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 1 showed very few parts of the histogram being an outlier. The histogram is symmetrical within the normal curve. This performance indicated that risky sexual behaviour was

impacted substantially by social networking and social cognition. The standard deviation of .99 indicated consistency in the manifestation of risky sexual behaviour.

Figure 2: Social Networking and Social Cognition on Youths’ Risky Sexual Behaviour



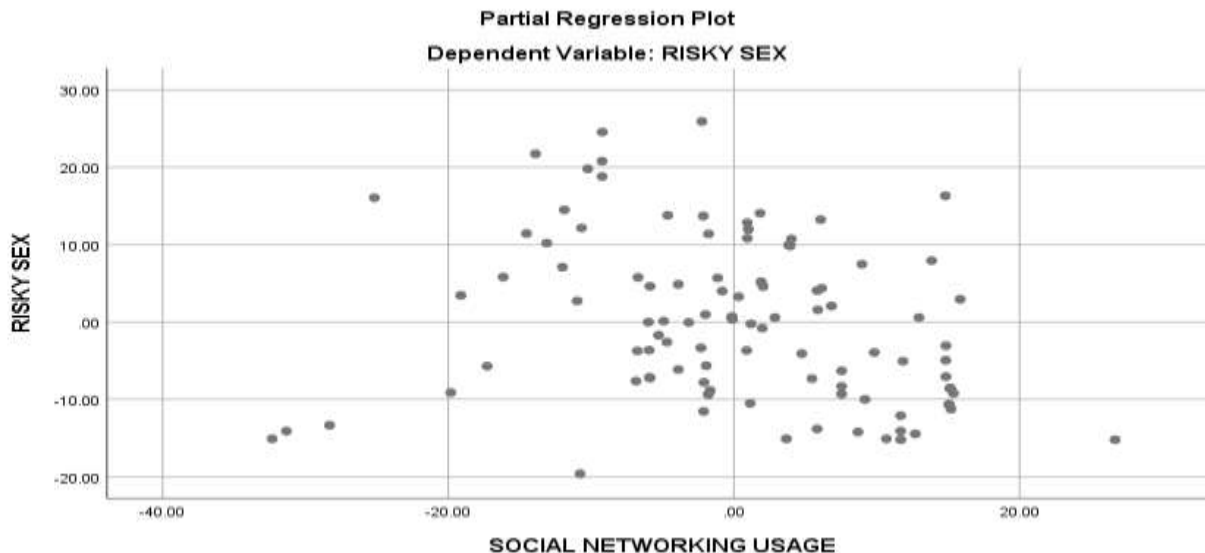
Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 2 showed the regression plot along the linear graph. The plot showed tangential fit along the linear line. It showed lack of fit. This indicated that the independent variables could not

well account for the manifestation of risky sexual behaviour among the youths sampled. The residual is the error between a predicted value and

the predictor values when it (the plot) deviates from the line of fit.

Figure 3: Social Networking and Youths' Risky Sexual behaviour



Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 3 showed the partial regression scattergram for social networking and risky sexual behaviour. The plot showed that the performance is symmetrical. However, there are

undulating negative outliers, indicating irregular impact of social networking on risky sexual behaviour.

Figure 4: Social Cognition and Youths' Risky Sex



Source: Questionnaire Primary Data

Figure 4 showed the partial regression scattergram of social cognition and risky sexual behaviour. The plot showed an erratic skewness with so much outliers on both positive and negative sides. This indicated so much variations among the youths on the association between social cognition and risky sexual behaviour.

Summary of Findings

For the Tested Hypotheses

1. Social networking significantly but negatively predicted risky sexual behaviour of youths.
2. Social cognition significantly and positively predicted risky sexual behaviour of youths.

Other (Fallout) Findings

3. Social networking significantly but negatively predicted social cognition of youths.
4. There is a negative significant relationship between social networking youths' and risky sexual behaviour.
5. There is a positive significant relationship between social cognition (knowledge) and risky sexual behaviour of youths.

DISCUSSION

Social media predicts risky sexual behaviour in youths in Onitsha metropolis in Anambra State, Nigeria, there is a high positive prediction between social media network of youths in Onitsha metropolis and their risky sexual behaviour. (It confirms the fact that low confidence and negative attitude, like struggling with relationships or marital issues, does not enable youths to perform their best in internal examinations). This finding conforms to the submissions of Bolatide, (2019) who found that youths with low social media usage often show lower risky sexual behaviour. These findings corroborate with Aryana (2010) outcomes who found in his research that youths' level of social media was the significant determination of their risky sexual behaviour.

Again, social media networking usage did not significantly predict the risky sexual behaviour of youths in Onitsha metropolis in Anambra State. This goes contrary to the findings of Hybels and Weaver (2012), who found that

pupils with high level of social media usage are not afraid of asking questions which may reveal their temporary ignorance, nor are they afraid of making mistakes as opportunities for further learning, thus enhancing their risky sexual behaviour. In essence, according to Hybels and Weaver (2012), social media usage would significantly predict the risky sexual behaviour of youths in Onitsha metropolis. This may be seen as true, because social media usage is considered in helping youths view the capability to promote themselves through effort and goals.

Limitations of the Studies

1. There were some respondents who exhibited a little bit of restraint to their views. During collection of the quantitative data, some of the respondents did not open up when asked some questions relating to their personal life or social cognitive ability. To overcome this, the researcher assured them that the data would be treated with utmost confidentiality and that anonymity would be guaranteed through the use of pseudonyms.

Suggestion for further study

The following suggestions are made for further studies

1. Further researches could be carried out about perception and attitudes of youths towards reducing HIV and AIDS.
2. This study could be replicated in other states of the federation with different background.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the findings of the study.

1. Behaviour modification professionals should raise concern on social media networking usage of the students by using appropriate methods and religious organizations should be involved in the training and retraining of parents in the improving of their children's cognitive ability.

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APPENDIX

SA Strongly Agree (5), A Agree (4), U Undecided (3), D Disagree (2), SD Strongly Disagree (1)

Social networking Usage Questionnaire

	SA	A	U	D	SD
1 I use social networking sites to become more sociable.					
2 I use social networking sites to keep in touch with my relatives.					
3 I use social networking sites to seek help from my teachers.					
4 I use social networking sites for getting jobs related information.					
5 I use social networking sites to share new ideas.					
6 I use social networking sites to create my social identity.					
7 I prefer using social networking sites to attending social gathering.					
8 I use social networking sites to get information regarding current social events.					
9 I use social networking sites for online academic group discussion.					
10 I use social networking sites for reading news.					
11 I use social networking sites for sharing pictures.					
12 I use social networking sites to do research work.					
13 I use social networking sites to learn about my curricular aspect.					
14 I communicate with my friends via social networking sites for preparation of exam.					
15 I use social networking sites to get relief from academic stress.					
16 I use social networking sites for watching movies.					
17 I use social networking sites for collaborative learning.					
18 I use social networking sites to solve my academic problem.					
19 I use social networking sites to look at funny sharing					
20 I use social networking sites for collaborative learning.					

Source: Savita and Liyaqat (2015).

Adolescent Social Cognition Questionnaire

	SA	A	U	D	SD
I am unlikeable.					
People will stare at me					
I am being an idiot					
People won't want to be friends with me					
I am not good enough					
I am not as good as others					
People are not interested in me					
People won't like me					
People will make fun of me					
I am weird/different					
People think I am boring					
I will embarrass myself					
People will be angry with me					
I will look stupid					
People will laugh at me					
I will be unable to speak					
I am going to tremble or shake uncontrollably					
I will be frozen with fear					
I will drop or spill things					
I am going to be sick					
will babble or talk funny					
I will be unable to concentrate.					

Source: Wells, Stopa and Clark (1993).

Risky Sex Scale

	SA	A	U	D	SD
1 I often feel hornier after I've had a couple of drinks.					
2 I'm a better sex partner after a few drinks.					
3 Women can have orgasms more easily if they have been drinking					
4 I enjoy having sex more if I have had some alcohol.					
5 I am more romantic when I drink.					
6 I feel more masculine (feminine) after a few drinks.					
7 After a few drinks, it is easier for me to have sex.					
8 If I have been drinking or using other drugs, I am probably more likely to have unprotected sex.					

- 9 If I have been drinking or using other substances with a new date, I am more likely to have sex with that person.
- 10 I am more likely to have unplanned sex if I have been drinking or using other substances.
- 11 If I have been drinking or using other substances with a familiar friend, I am more likely to have sex with that person.
- 12 Women are more likely to be sexually assaulted if they have been drinking or using other drugs.
- 13 Women seem more likely to have sex if they have been drinking, than if they have not been drinking.
- 14 Men are more likely to commit sexual assault if they have been drinking or using other drugs.
- 15 I enjoy having sex more if I have had some alcohol.

Source: O'Hare (2001)